

Context Clues: Using All Types**STUDENT OBJECTIVES**

- Identify definition, restatement, comparison, contrast, cause-and-effect, and example context clues
- Use all types of context clues to understand unfamiliar words

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

You will need photocopies for students of:

- **Student Lesson Summary**, p. 137–138
- **Practice Worksheets**, Levels A and B, pp. 139–140
- **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 141

Teach

1. **Context Clues:** Tell students that they can often use **context** to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. Remind them that **context clues** are words and phrases that surround a word and give clues to its meaning.
 - Point out that the following types of context clues are frequently used: **definition, restatement, comparison, contrast, cause-and-effect, example.**
 - Explain that names of the types of context clues explain how they function. For example, a definition clue provides the definition of an unfamiliar word. Ask students to describe some of the other types. (*Sample: Comparison clue surrounds unfamiliar word with similar-meaning words compared as “like” the new word; contrast clue surrounds unfamiliar word with opposite-meaning words described as “different” or “opposite.”*)
 - Remind students that, each type of clue has certain signal words and punctuation marks that help to identify it.
2. **Teaching Context Clues:** Pass out the **Lesson Summary** and guide students through the **Academic Vocabulary**. Review with students the **Here’s How** steps for using different types of context clues.
 - Have students examine the chart that shows various signal words and punctuation marks that point to different types of context clues.
 - Go over the example sentences. For each unfamiliar word, call on a volunteer to read the context clue that explains its meaning, and point out the relevant punctuation marks and signal words. Ask students to give a simple definition of the word based on context. (*Sample: anthropology: the study of human cultures; sauntered: walked slowly; plummeted: fell sharply; vivacious: full of energy; eloquent: forceful and persuasive; rhetoric: persuasive public speaking*)
 - For each of these unfamiliar words, help students to write a new context sentence.
 - Finally, have students enter the words, their meanings, and their new context sentences into a vocabulary notebook.
3. **Guided Practice:** Write the following example sentence on the board. Then guide students to use context to understand the underlined word by asking the questions that follow.

CONTEXT CLUES: USING ALL TYPES, CONTINUED

EXAMPLE The movie was extremely suspenseful—I had never seen a film that kept me more on the edge of my seat!

- Ask: What context clue can help you determine the meaning of the underlined word? (“*kept me more on the edge of my seat*”)
- Ask: What punctuation mark helps to signal the context clue? (*the dash*)
- Ask: What type of context clue is used? (*restatement*) How does a restatement clue give meaning to the underlined word? (*It says the same thing another way.*)
- Ask students to share their own working definitions of *suspenseful* based on the context. (*Sample: mysterious, full of tension, dramatic, causing anticipation, arousing curiosity or uncertainty about what will happen*)

QUICK CHECK. Have students write a list of five types of context clues. Then have them write or describe aloud how each type functions.

Practice and Apply

Activities involving all types of context clues appear on pp. 139–140.

- Assign **Practice Worksheet A** to students who need more structured activities.
- Assign **Practice Worksheet B** to grade-level and above-level students.

Sample Answers: Practice Worksheet A

1. Jenna thought the beautiful, delicate lion fish resembled an exquisite jewel.
definition: very beautiful or lovely
2. **Fictional** stories include fables, folktales, and fantasy. **definition:** made up or imagined
3. The university has a department of **statistics**, or the study of facts or data.
definition: the study of facts or data
4. My teacher think two hours of practice a day are **essential** absolutely necessary if a pianist is to make progress. **definition:** necessary; extremely important
5. We had expected a **logical** proposal from Eric, but instead he presented a disorganized, confusing plan. **definition:** well-reasoned
6. Because her grief was so profound, it was hard to offer her any **consolation**.
definition: comfort; solace
7. Just as certain as dawn my exams are **inevitable**. **definition:** certain, unavoidable
8. We thought we would find Mark in good spirits, but instead he seemed **despondent**.
definition: down-hearted
9. Zach never **deviated** from his goal he remained determined at all times to achieve his objectives. **definition:** turned away from, swerved
10. Because Rita loved complex designs, the decorations in the dining room were **elaborate**.
definition: detailed; complex; fancy

Sample Answers: Practice Worksheet B

CONTEXT CLUES: USING ALL TYPES, CONTINUED

1. cause and effect; **Meaning:** delay
2. restatement; **Meaning:** friendly; agreeable
3. contrast; **Meaning:** break up or scatter
4. comparison; **Meaning:** shaped like a ball; round
5. example; **Meaning:** peculiar; odd
6. definition; **Meaning:** fear of enclosed spaces
7. *Because Brenda's criticisms of the plan were so incisive, we voted to reject it.*
8. *The salary offer was paltry, and Vince couldn't imagine being able to live on such a small income.*

Assess and Reteach

Use these guidelines to determine if students need the **Reteaching Worksheet**.

- **Practice Worksheet A:** Students should correctly indicate signal words, underline context clues, and define words in at least 7 items.
- **Practice Worksheet B:** Students should correctly answer 5 of items 1–6, and should write at least *one* sentence with appropriate context clues in items 7–8.

For students who need reteaching, review the **Lesson Summary**. Focus on the examples, and relate them to the definitions in **Academic Vocabulary**. Brainstorm one or two new examples with students. Then have them complete the **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 141.

Answer Key: Reteaching Worksheet

1. *innovators. Signal word: like. Type of clue: comparison. Meaning: pioneers; persons who introduce new methods or techniques.*
2. *collage. Signal mark: comma. Type of clue: definition. Meaning: a form in which small objects are pasted together on a surface to achieve symbolic or suggestive effects.*
3. *impact. Signal word: for example. Type of clue: example. Meaning: effect; influence.*
4. *universal. Signal mark: dash. Type of clue: restatement. Meaning: present or occurring everywhere; common to all.*